

translation system. In view of the fact that the person in question may not have had a visa to enter Canada, after the investigation is completed would the minister be prepared to make a statement, particularly as a serious situation could develop at our airports such as has developed elsewhere?

[Translation]

Mr. Goyer: Of course, Mr. Speaker, if it is in the public interest.

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[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

STEPS TO ENSURE CO-ORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Prime Minister. In view of the statement made in St. John's yesterday by the secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology to the effect that there is no co-ordination of Canadian policies either in space or beneath the seas, and in view of the statement made in Stockholm yesterday by the Minister of the Environment that Canada was prepared to commit \$100 million toward a world environmental program, what steps is the government taking to ensure that these programs are co-ordinated, either through the Minister of State for Science and Technology or through the Department of the Environment?

• (1430)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the second part of the question I might take this opportunity to indicate to the hon. member that a correction has been published in the press, correcting the first impression about the \$100 million. I think the decision by the government, announced by the minister, is that if a fund in the area of \$106 million were set up, under certain conditions with which the government could agree, then we would be prepared to contribute to it an amount of \$5 million to \$7 million. So much for the \$100 million part of it, Mr. Speaker.

As to the co-ordination part of the question, yes, it is the very function of the new Ministry of Science and Technology to ensure that there be more and better co-ordination between all aspects of science and technology in Canada.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED STATES ON POSSIBILITY OF CONTINENTAL POLICY—CONSULTATION ON POSITIONS TO BE TAKEN AT STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): What efforts have been made to achieve some kind of continental environmental policy with the United States? I ask this in view of what appears to be opposition by the Americans to the position we are taking at the Stockholm conference.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member merely has to recall the very

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successful meeting I had with President Nixon a few weeks ago on this very subject.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. members who are laughing are not from Ontario. I note that one is from Peace River where he has pollution of his own.

Mr. Baldwin: I am looking at it right now.

Mr. Trudeau: The agreement signed between the United States and Canada at that time had to do with the prevention and clean-up of pollution in the Great Lakes. If the hon. member from the Maritimes and the hon. member for Peace River would get on their toes, perhaps they might be able to do the same thing for their areas too.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I happen to be a member from an Atlantic province which is a much bigger area than the Maritime provinces. Was there any consultation with the Americans prior to the Stockholm conference with a view to getting some sort of co-ordinated approach to world environmental problems?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows that this is a conference set up under the aegis of the United Nations. It is in fact co-ordinated and managed by a Canadian, Mr. Maurice Strong. He has been in consultation with all participating governments, including ours, and at those meetings with him we indicated the desire of the Canadian government to co-operate in a very positive way at Stockholm. I hope the House and the country have taken notice of the fact that the Canadian government position at Stockholm has been a very forward one. I do not think that this is the proper place to criticize what the United States has done. I think we should at least wait until the conference is over and see then if there are proper ways of making it a success.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

PENSIONS—REQUEST FOR REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Veterans Affairs I would like to direct my question to his parliamentary secretary. In view of the continuing representations by veterans organizations over basic rates of pensions, the commitment by the Minister of Veterans Affairs that this matter would be referred to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, and the number of questions that have been asked in the House during the past week, is the parliamentary secretary able to indicate to the House whether this matter will be referred to the standing committee?

Mr. Lloyd Francis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will bring the matter